

I am an Amateur Extra licensee, AB1AV.
I generally support the ARRL petition.
In particular, I agree with the establishment of an entry-level class with power limitations and access to the HF bands; I agree with dropping the Morse code requirement for General class licensees; and I agree with retaining the Morse code requirement for Extra class licensees.

Although CW/Morse is "just another mode", it is different from, for example, RTTY or SSB because:

- it lends itself to simple transmitters and receivers, which facilitates experimentation;
- it communicates in the presense of noise or fading far better than any non-computer-assisted mode;
- copying it by ear is a skill that requires deliberate training and practice.

For these reasons, it is appropriate to require that the highest Amateur license class require demonstrated skill in Morse code. I would support raising the required speed to somewhere between 10 and 15 words per minute, because practicing at 5 WPM is generally considered useless or even counterproductive toward achieving proficiency at higher speeds.

-- Bill Noyce, AB1AV